
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 16

Number 1



2005

1894-S PR-66 10c

See page 4



Part of the Richmond III Collection

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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein
ANA Club Member C-146266

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this message on the first of March believing Spring is near while here in Illinois it has snowed an inch three times in the past week. If one is looking for coin shows, local or national, they are happening as you receive this issue.

I attended the FUN show in Ft Lauderdale this January. The bourse equaled or exceeded that of any ANA Convention show. Heritage sold the John Hugon Collection of Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars in both mint state and proof. One may accept proof coins in grades of Pf-67, -68 and -69—these coins were kept and cared for after all. However, the circulation strike coins were truly astounding! The lowest grade I noted was MS-64 and only a few coins graded this low. Grades of MS-67 thru MS-69 were almost common. Wonderful provenances from Eliasberg, Price, Pryor and Queller were part of the lots' descriptions. I think Jack Hugon (a former BCCS member) was pleased with the sale of his Barbers. This catalog establishes a pedigree for these great coins.

By the time you receive this issue, the Richmond III sale will be history. On March 7, in Baltimore, David Lawrence will sell at auction a complete set of Barbers including the 1894-S dime. This sale differs in that coins are collector mintstate grades, generally ranging from MS-63 to MS-65. If you are reading numismatic publications which report a strong market, Barbers are very much contributors to this favorable picture. I plan to attend the Richmond Sale Part III and will record tidbits of interest. In May, I expect to attend the CSNS convention in St. Louis. I'll look for BCCS members and hope we can informally gather on Saturday.

The BCCS website exists and is developing nicely. John Frost is responsible for this achievement and deserves our thanks. I owe the website, actually John, a history of our Society and I'll deliver before the next issue (that means three months to do this after discussing this with John late last year).

My thanks to all the members who contribute to our Society and to Eileen Ribar who puts this Journal together for our enjoyment and education.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan
Philrph1892@cs.com

*****Late Breaking News from Baltimore*****

The 1894-S Barber Dime featured on the cover of this issue sold at the DLRC Richmond sale for \$1,322,500 (hammer price + buyer's fee).



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to introduce the Journal's newest contributing editor, John Dembinski who has offered to write for the Journal on a regular basis. John is not exactly new to you as he has already written an article for the Journal (which just earned him the 2004 Literary Contest 3rd place prize.) You will find his latest article and learn a bit about him on pages 6 and 7 in this issue.

Many thanks to those of you who voted in the annual Literary Contest. Complete results are on page 16. I have enjoyed reading the annual survey replies many of you included with your dues. Phil has the task of compiling all the data which he will present in a future issue. I'm sure you will be interested to learn what is the membership's favorite Barber. I certainly am. Want to take a guess?

Those of you who have not as yet renewed your 2005 BCCS membership will find a renewal form inside your Journal. Please send in your annual dues as soon as possible.

I was amazed at the price paid for the 1894-S Barber Dime in the Richmond Collection. The "Coin Values" column by Mark Ferguson that appeared on page 68 in the Jan. 10, 2005 issue of *Coin World* was titled in part "Barber Silver Coins Soar,..." In the article, Mr. Ferguson commented, "Values for virtually all grades and all date and Mint mark issues have risen firmly,..." Barbers certainly appear to be a series worth collecting.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS June 1st

The Other Barbers, Part 1

By John Dembinski

Over the years much has been written in our club Journal about the dimes, quarter dollars and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, for whom our Society is named. And this is as it should be - that's why we are called the Barber Coin Collectors Society. Discussing and sharing information with other Barber collectors about die varieties, collecting habits, stories of finding that special Barber coin you've been hunting for years, etc., is what this Society is all about. But what about Mr. Barber's other coinage? There is more U.S. coinage attributed to Mr. Barber's designs than just the dimes, quarters and halves we love and always talk about. So, in this article let's have a closer look at some of the other coins that Charles E. Barber is famous (or not so famous) for designing.

The first coin that comes to my mind should be obvious to us all: the Liberty Head Nickel, also known as the "V" nickel, 1883-1913. This coin is (in my humble opinion) a very beautiful design, both obverse and reverse. According to the *Coin World Almanac, 7th Edition*, page 281, the model or source for the Liberty Head design on the obverse of this coin is unknown. The reverse of this coin, for which two varieties for 1883 exist ("with CENTS" and "without CENTS") are thought to be original designs by Mr. Barber. (The "with CENTS" variety always commands a higher price than the "without CENTS" type in every grade.)

Most of us would consider the "key" dates in this series to be the 1885, 1886, and 1912-S, all of which are within the grasp of budget-minded collectors like myself. You could also shoot for the chance to own one of the famous (or infamous?) 1913 nickels. (Being a close relative of Bill Gates or a Saudi prince would help.)

For further information about this wonderful coin, please refer to BCCS Journal issues Vol. 13, No. 4 and Vol. 14, No. 1. Also see excellent articles in *Coin World*: 5/15/00, p. 102; 7/10/00, p. 72; 4/23/01, 9/23/02, p. 120; *COINS* magazine, May 2001; Dec. 2002; and *COINAGE* magazine, June 2001, to name just a few. Great reference books on the Liberty Head Nickel include *The Complete Guide to Shield and Liberty Head Nickels* by Gloria Peters and Cynthia Mohon and *Treasure Hunting Liberty Head Nickels* by William Van Note and Kevin Flynn. Please also see Chapter 21, "The Barber Coinage," in Don Taxay's book, *The U.S. Mint and Coinage* for very interesting reading about Mr. Barber and his designs.

Another Barber design that may often be overlooked by Barber collectors is the Isabella Quarter Dollar minted in 1893 as a souvenir of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago that year. Authority was granted to mint the commemorative 25-cent piece on March 3, 1893 and the Philadelphia Mint turned out 24,214 quarter dollars, of which only one type is known. Not considered very rare, even for its low mintage, a nice specimen in AU-50 can be obtained for about \$425.00 which puts this coin within reach of most Barber collectors of modest means. Also, if I am correct, this quarter is the first U.S. coin design to depict a real person (long deceased, of course), Queen Isabella of Spain.

So, as you can see, there's a lot more to Charles E. Barber than just his beautiful dimes, quarters, and halves. In my next installment, I would like to discuss some other Barber designs that we might not often think of. I also hope the collecting of Barber's "other" coins will instill some excitement in the hearts and minds of collectors, myself included.

Sources: Coin World Almanac, 7th Edition, 2000

A Guidebook of United States Coins (Red Book), 56th Edition, 2003

Meet John Dembinski

Hello! My name is John Dembinski. I have been a member of the BCCS since 2000. I have been a coin collector since age 10, receiving old coins and silver certificates from an elderly gentleman on my paper route. It was then that I got bit by the coin collecting bug and I've been hooked ever since.

I not only collect Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars. I also collect other U.S. coins from Half Cents through Dollars, but mostly I stick with the Barber series (my favorite), trying to complete a set of each denomination. I also collect world coins and paper money (focusing on Germany), ancient and medieval coins (slight interest), and medals, tokens, and wooden money (slightly interested). I also collect auction catalogs and other numismatic books.

I hold memberships in the Wayne, MI Coin Club of which I am president, Northwest Detroit Coin Club, Michigan State Numismatic Society, Central States Numismatic Society, Barber Coin Collectors' Society (of course!), Liberty Seated Collectors Club, American Israel Numismatic Society, Numismatic Bibliomania Society, and Western Wooden Money Club.



Barber Coins: The Fun Is Back

By **Dan Flood**

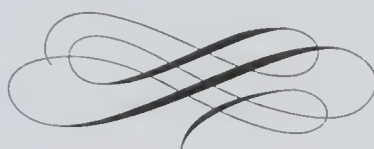
I started collecting coins as a child in the early 1960's. I continued to collect until the early 1970's, at which time I sold my entire collection. I was a teenager, and needed the money for more important things in life. The coin collecting bug hit me again, this time in the late 90's. Like most collectors, I started out slow - mint sets, proof sets, etc., then, I started to collect by series. I completed BU sets of Washington quarters, Roosevelt dimes, and Franklin halves.

As time went on, I wanted to change direction with my collection, and decided to concentrate only on key and semi-key dates of different series. This would become a type set, but instead of high grade, common date coins, (which is usually the way type sets are collected), I would collect the keys or semi-keys instead. I attempted to buy the key dates in the highest grade I could afford at the time. As time went on, I acquired quite a few nice, certified, key date coins.

When it came time to buy the Barber quarter key, I had a dilemma. Whenever I read any article pertaining to Barber quarters, the article would always refer to the "Big 3," the key dates: 1896-S, 1901-S, and 1913-S. Not wanting to leave one of the "Big 3" out of my type set, I decided to collect all 3 keys, certified by either NGC or PCGS. This required a large expenditure of money, so I felt it was necessary to learn as much about Barber quarters as I could before buying the keys. I found myself really enjoying the research I was doing on the Barber quarter series, and this research extended to the other Barber series as well.

I read as many articles as I could find on Barber coinage. This included surfing the Internet for articles, reading Barber coin related threads on the US Coins Forums, as well as reading articles on Barber coins in numismatic publications. In addition, I purchased as many of David Lawrence's books on Barber coinage as I could find. His books have probably been my number one source of information on the Barber series. The difference between my coin collecting strategy now, compared to the past, is that I am enjoying the history behind the coins, as well as the research that I am currently doing on the Barber series. Before, I found myself collecting coins for the sake of "acquiring coins" without much thought going into the overall field of numismatics. With Barber coins, this has all changed.

In order to increase my knowledge of the Barber series and quench my appetite for information on Barber coins, I have joined the BCCS (within the last couple of months), and have become an active member on the Collectors Universe Forums. By joining these groups, I can gain and share knowledge with other serious Barber collectors. I have gotten away from collecting by "type," and I am currently working on a set of Barber quarters in VF – XF condition. The coins have to have that original (no dipped or cleaned coins) look to them, and be hi-end for the grade. With the key date Barber quarters out of the way, I can take my time and really enjoy the hunt for nice, choice examples of the rest of the set. LET THE FUN BEGIN.....



BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2004	\$5072.08
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Receipts

Dues	3240.00	
Advertising	990.00	
Back issues	410.65	
Bank interest	3.69	
Total		\$4644.34

Total funds available:	\$9716.42
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Expenses

Journal production	2060.40	
Postage	553.15	
Literary prizes	90.00	
ANA dues	29.00	
Bank charges	180.00	
Total		\$2924.55

Closing balance December 31, 2004	\$6791.87
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Selling Barbers on eBay

By Joe C. Whittle

Like many of us, I got my start with 4 rolls of Barbers that I inherited from my father in 1994. He'd hauled them out of circulation sometime in the 1930's. I couldn't wait to open the rolls when I received them but guess what, they all looked just as worn as they do today when you cruise the bourse floor at a coin show.

I sorted them and learned to grade them, sold off the duplicate lower grades and started on the daunting task of completing every series – Liberty Nickels through Halves. In early 2004 I completed all series except for the 1896 Nickel and the 1901-S Quarter. The complete sets averaged grade F-12.

With Trends prices increasing dramatically in 2004, I decided it was time to sell them. My collection wasn't high class enough for the national coin auction houses so I decided to list them one by one myself on eBay. Here are the results from March through December 2004:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>	<u>Trends Value</u>	<u>Net Proceeds</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss</u>	<u>Net Percentage</u>	<u>Trends Gain/Loss</u>	<u>Trends Percentage</u>
Liberty 5c	986.22	2005.00	1642.66	656.44	66.56%	-362.34	-18.07%
Barber 10c	2342.85	3057.25	2260.33	-82.52	-3.52%	-796.92	-26.07%
Barber 25c	1525.99	2930.50	2762.12	1236.13	81.01%	-168.38	-5.75%
Barber 50c	1644.55	2606.50	3203.83	1559.28	94.81%	597.33	22.92%
	6499.61	10599.25	9868.94	3369.33	59.71%	-730.31	-6.74%

FOOTNOTES

1. By 2004 there were only 7 of the original cost-free inherited coins left.
2. The Net Proceeds column is net of all selling expenses including postage.
3. Trends values were kept up to date from March through December.

WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT EBAY

"A picture is worth a 1,000 words." This old saying is certainly true when

it comes to eBay buyers. Dimes are the hardest to photograph and my net proceeds reflect that. I also had several certified dimes that were net graded by ANACS and they hurt me as well. I suggest that you crack out any net graded coins before you try and sell them on eBay.

Advertise yourself as a collector and not a dealer, if you aren't a dealer. I provided precise grades and ended every description with "You be the judge." I got many complements about that from eBayers.

Use reserve prices. I listed all my coins on Saturday or Sunday because weekends are when the collectors are on eBay. Reserve prices should be at least what you paid for the coin in case there is a slow week with very few buyers. You get your reserve price cost back when the reserve is met. If the reserve price is not met, you can re-list your coin and try a second time. Without a reserve price you may sell too cheap.

Combine lots when you have several low grade or low priced coins in the same series. For example, if you have 5 late date VG-8 dimes that have Trends values of \$2.50 a piece, sell them as one lot. Your selling expense is too high for one coin at a time. Ebay buyers like to buy multiple lots because it saves them postage costs.

Avoid "Buy It Now" and "Gallery." "Buy It Now" seemed to be only used by dealers. If you are a collector, let the price go where it goes; you are protected by your reserve price. Gallery photographs make sense for some types of eBay merchandise, but not coins. Shoppers want to see clear un-altered photographs with the "super size" picture option. Super size costs 75 cents and it's worth the cost on every item.

CONCLUSION

It took 10 years to complete these series. I did almost all my buying at shows and not through mail order. As you can see, my net profit was almost 60%. That's 6% a year which isn't bad. The next time your spouse tells you to quit spending money on "those old worn out coins" show him/her this article.

The results of this sale clearly demonstrate that if you have the patience to list your coins on eBay you will probably realize a better return on the lower grades. Some of the dealers who I talked with refer to eBay as "full of bottom fishers." I did not find this to be true. Most of the people I dealt with were collectors and many were in rural areas without the benefit of local coin shows. Some were also disabled and unable to attend coin clubs or shows.

Barber Quarter Logo Types, Part 5 in a Series

By **Steve Hustad**

As highlighted in this series' previous installments, much can be learned from a closer study of the coins in your collection. I wrote an article in 2001 for the Vol. 12, No. 3 BCCS Journal about the large and small date 1892 quarter varieties. In that short monograph, I illustrated and described all the different, known 1892 quarters from each mint with each sized date and reverse hub. Reviewing that article (if you have it) would be a good refresher and introduction to this one.

This installment will cover a bit of that old ground as well as identify four (!) following size and style changes. I wonder what was going on at the mint in those years? Why the changes? The record doesn't say, that I'm aware of. So, since that interesting little mystery will likely remain unsolved, I'll just forge ahead and describe what I know and maybe our astute membership can add something to this information and have it published in our Journal at a later date.

So on with part 5 we go!

Style A: 1892 only -

This group of date number punches was carried over from the Liberty Seated series of coins that directly preceded the Barbers. This is easily confirmed by a direct comparison of the two.

This style is characterized by:

- 1) Style as in pre-Barber coinage years - angular serifs with squared tips at 1s and 4s especially.
- 2) Large date (1892). Compare all 1892 dated pieces with style "B" described below.

Style B: 1892 – 1900

This style is characterized by:

- 1) Style of numerals is similar to Style "A."
- 2) Size is reduced (though it's not readily apparent until you put the two differing pieces side by side).

Both large and small dates (styles A & B) exist for 1892 (see above comments). The two 1892 logotype styles exist with both type I & II reverse hub types (see the

last issue's previous article, installment 4), and from all three mints involved.

I found finding these pieces and adding unusual coins to my collection to be very enjoyable. What more could we ask for?

Style C: 1900 – 1906

This style is characterized by:

- 1) The style is now a bit 'squatter' with fat serifs and a slightly more rounded appearance overall. Compare especially the 1s, 3s, 4s & 5s.
- 2) Size is very slightly increased approximately back to the size/height of style "A."

The most interesting aspect of this change at this juncture is that overlap occurs with style "B" on some 1900 dated pieces from all three mints. More collecting fun!

Style D: 1907 - 1914

This style is characterized by:

- 1) The style is as "C" above except, of course, these numerals are quite a bit more 'compressed' in height. This could be called a 'small date' if there was any overlap with style "C," but unfortunately I haven't seen any yet. Maybe others have?

Style E: 1915 & 1916

This style is characterized by:

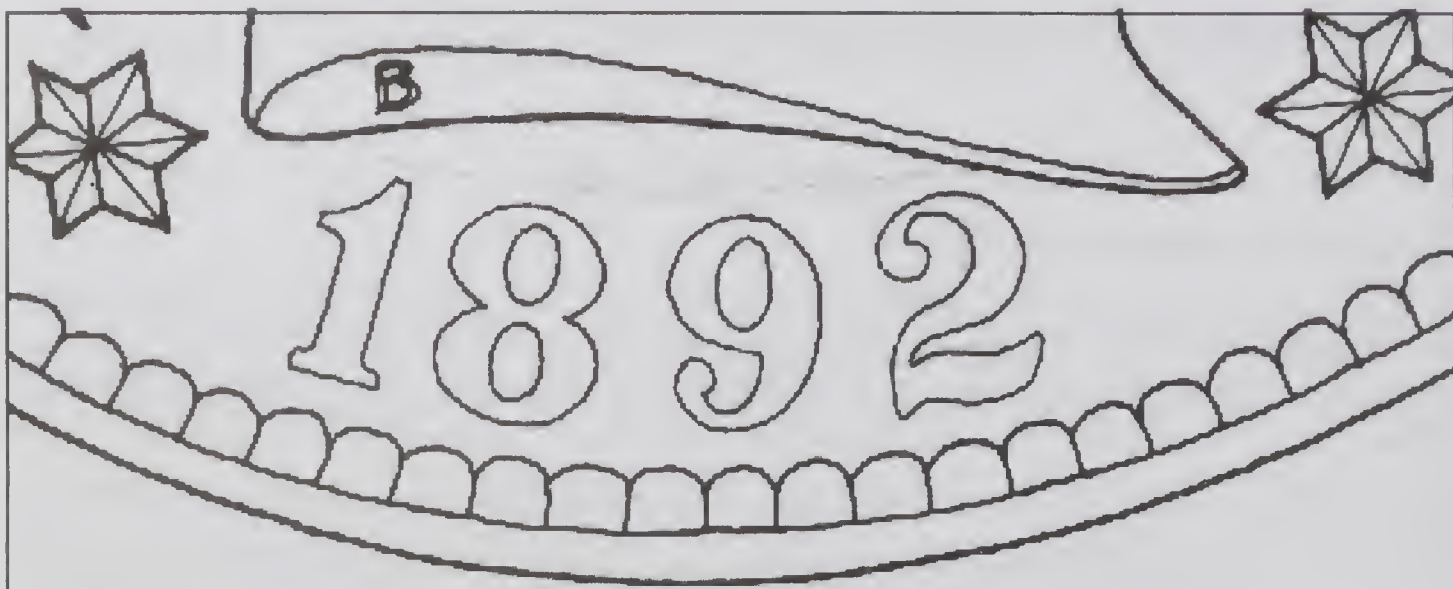
- 1) Style is changed to a cruder, more exaggerated look.
- 2) Size as with "D" above, though slightly thinner too.

No overlapping of 1914 or 1915 pieces have been noted.

Overall, these differences would be meaningless if not for the extra, very collectable varieties that these various changes have made possible. Combined with the reverse hub changes, known large and small mintmark sizes and so forth we can expand a normal Barber quarter collection by perhaps dozens of pieces, creating a very unique and interesting collection that just as importantly, won't cost you an arm and a leg!

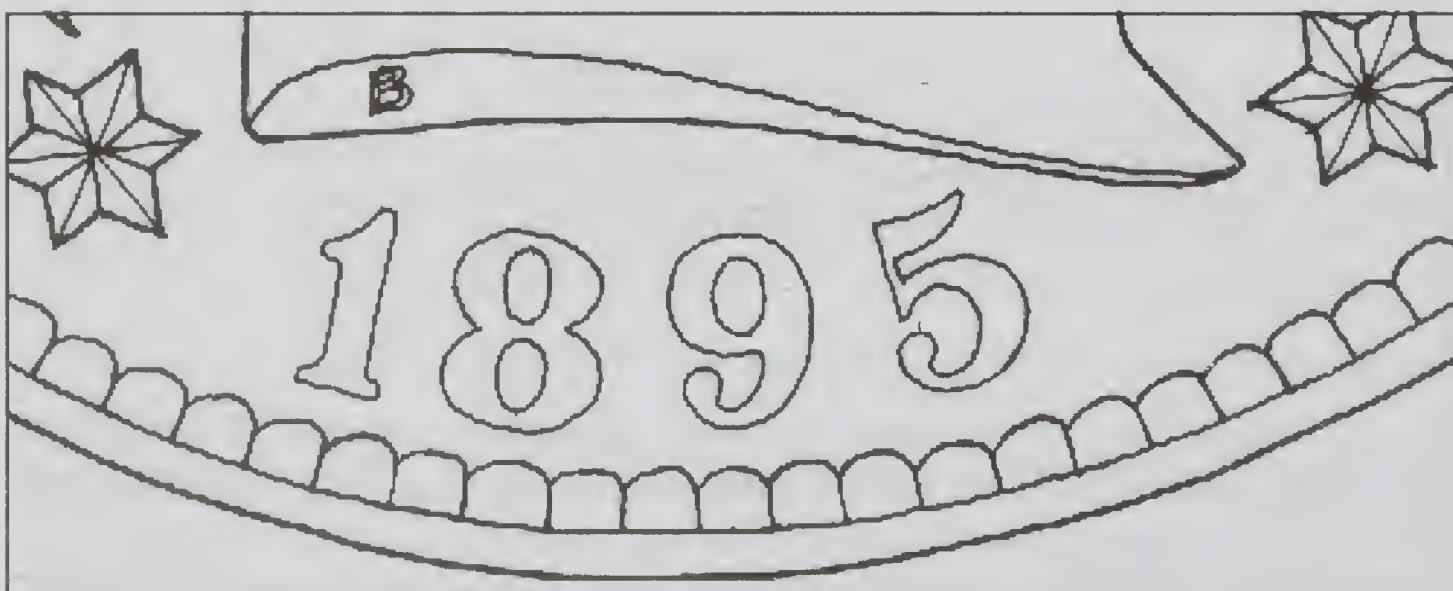
So that's it for the fifth installment. We'll continue on with the various mintmarks used on the Barber quarter series in the next (sixth) article in this series.

Happy hunting & collecting!



STYLE A: 1892 Only

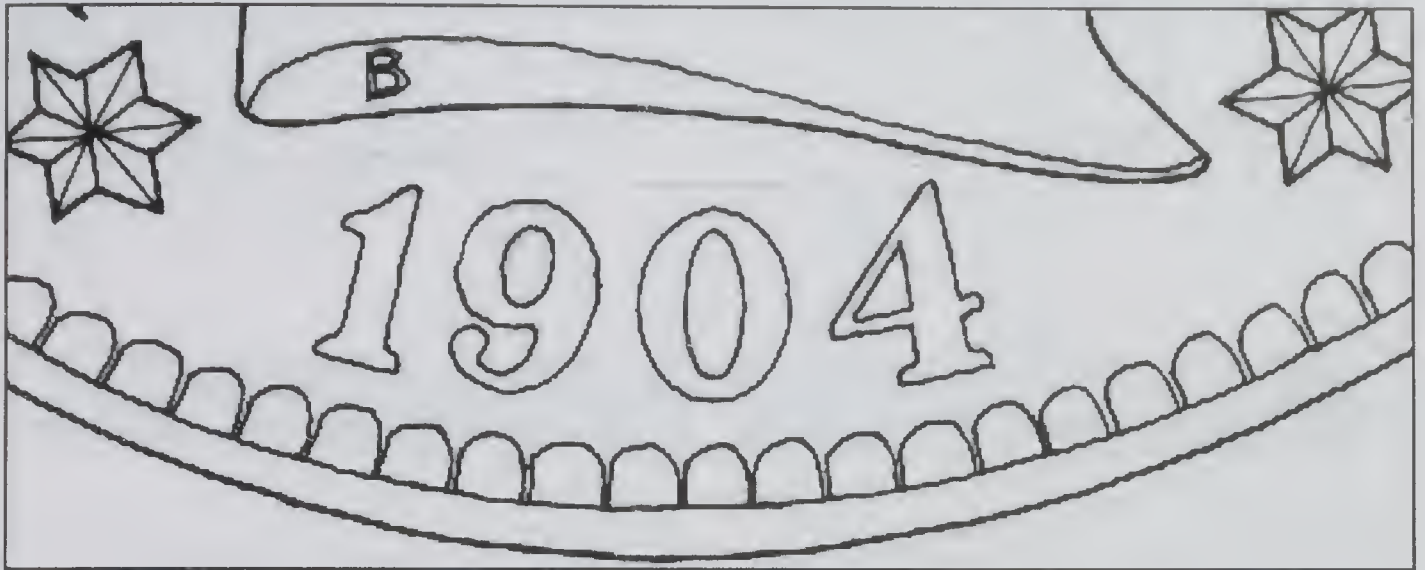
1. Style as in pre-Barber coinage years; angular serifs with squared tips at the 1's and 4's.
2. Large date. Compare all 1892 dated pieces with Style B below.



STYLE B: 1892-1900

1. Style is similar to Style A above.
2. Size reduced slightly. Both large and small dates (Styles A and B) exist for 1892.

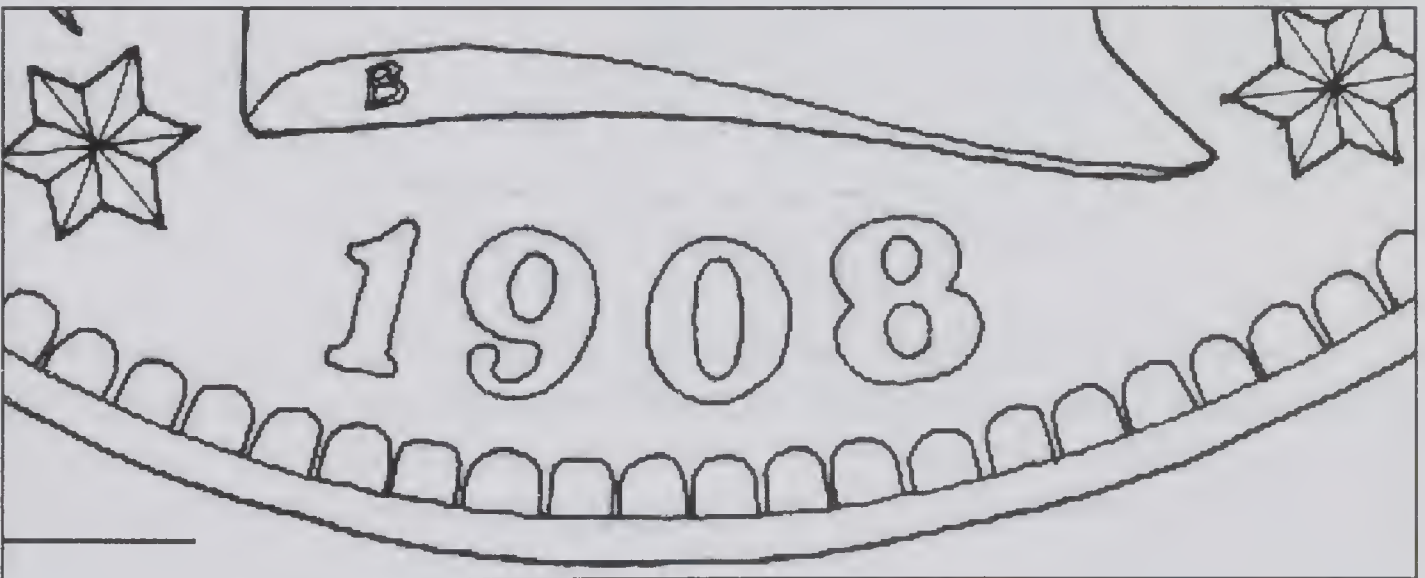
The 1892 styles exist on both Type I and II hub types and from all three mints.



STYLE C: 1900-1906

1. Style now a bit squatter with fat serifs and a more rounded appearance. Compare the 1's, 3's, 4's and 5's.
2. Size increased very slightly, back to approximate height of Style A.

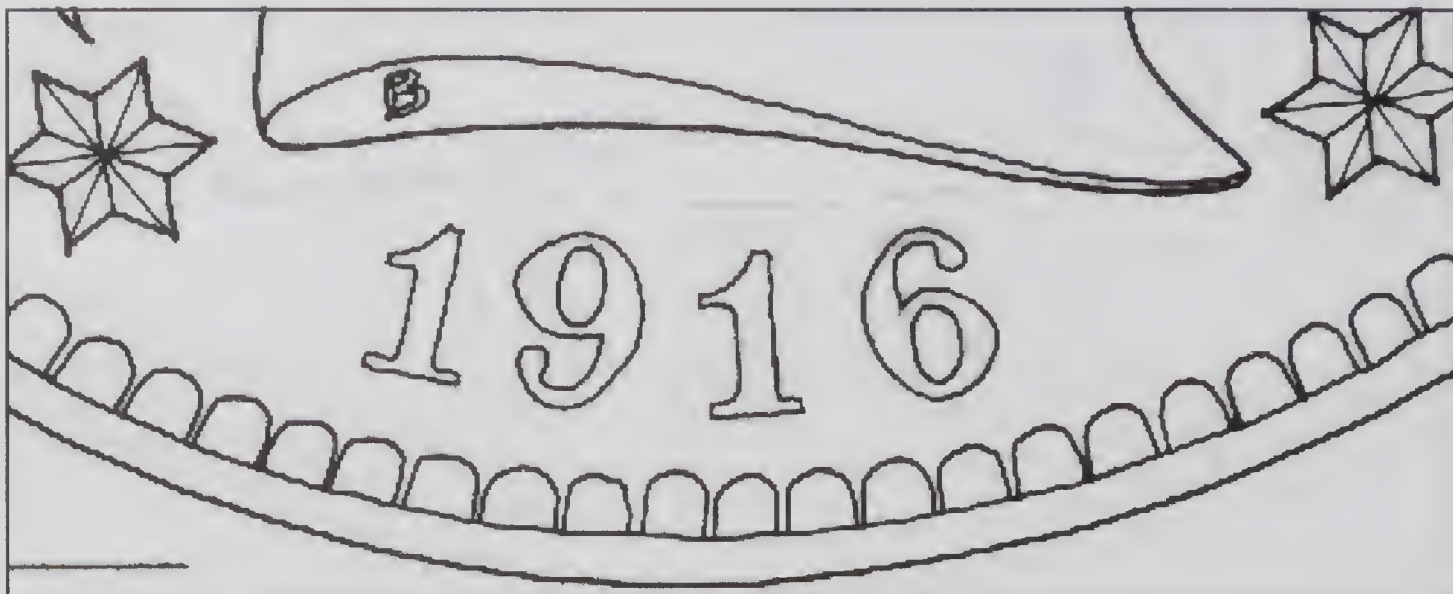
Overlap occurs with Style B on some 1900 dated pieces.



STYLE D: 1907-1914

1. Style is as Style C above except, of course, a bit more compressed in height.
2. Size dramatically reduced in height.

No overlapping noted.



STYLE E: 1915 and 1916

1. Style changed to more crude, exaggerated numerals.
2. Size as on Style D, though slightly thinner.

No overlapping noted.



2004 BCCS Literary Contest Results

Congratulations to last year's Literary Contest winners! Ballot results are below. Many thanks to all who participated. I am pleased to report that every article on the ballot received votes. It was a very close contest; only 2 votes separated second and third place. There was a tie for third place. Our 2005 contest opens with this issue.

1st Place - \$50 - "Hunting Down Mid-Grade Barber Halves" by Robert M. Petty

2nd Place - \$25 - "Barber Halves at the Smithsonian" by Peter K. Shireman

3rd Place - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "A Collector's Memories" by William N. Bragg and "Over-Grading Just a Bit?" by John Dembinski



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1904 PCGS MS 65	\$599.99
1904 PCGS MS 66	\$1,599.99
1910 PCGS MS 65	\$674.99
1911 PCGS MS 65	\$574.99
1911 PCGS MS 66	\$1,599.99

BARBER 25c

1894-S PCGS MS 64	\$1,199.99
1909 PCGS MS 64	\$449.99
1916-D NGC MS 64	\$379.99

BARBER 10c

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1897 NGC MS 65	
[Awesome Color]	\$699.99
1898 PCGS MS 65	\$624.99
1898-O PCGS MS 64	\$2,299.99
1907 NGC MS 66	\$1,299.99
1910-S PCGS MS 65	\$2,349.99

BARBER 50c

1892 PCGS PR 66	
DCAM [pop 4/2]	\$6,099.99
1905-O PCGS MS 65	\$4,299.99
1906-D PCGS MS 65	\$3,649.99
1912 PCGS MS 64	\$1,374.99

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1913-D Half Dollar Values Worth Pursuing

By **Paul M. Green**

Barber half dollars are one of the great values from the 20th century, thanks in large part to the relative lack of interest in Barber coins of any type. You would think the situation would change as people search for coins that are completable sets representing good values.

The Barber half dollar was issued from 1892-1915 at four different facilities, making for a lot of potential dates in a collection. Just the silver value alone is not insignificant.

If you look at the entire set in lower-circulated grades, you would get the impression, based on their prices, that there are few low-mintage Barber half dollars. Of the regular dates, there is not a single one that reaches \$200 in G-4. The top prices are the 1892-O and 1892-S which are now at \$150 in G-4, and they are not even the lowest-mintage Barber half dollars.

There is a substantial drop in price from the top Barber half dollars to the next level. The 1892-O, 1892-S, 1893-S and 1897-S are all \$100 to \$150 in G-4. The next top price in G-4 is the 1896-S at \$62 and the 1897-O at \$55. From those levels, the G-4 prices of better Barber halves drop to \$30 or less, with the most available dates listing at \$7.

So while there are a half dozen or so Barber halves more than \$30, there are nearly 20 with mintages of less than 1 million. Of the higher-priced dates in G-4, the 1892-S had a mintage of more than 1 million, as did the 1896-S, while the 1897-S was around 933,000, meaning there are a lot of lower-mintage Barber half dollars at less than \$30 - sometimes much less, like the 1913-D, with a 534,000 mintage and a current G-4 price of \$7.75.

Its mintage is close to the 1916-S or the 1921-S Walking Liberty half dollar, both of which are much more in G-4, with the 1916-S currently listed for \$85

in G-4, while the 1921-S is \$24. The Walking Liberty half dollar is more collected than the Barber half dollar, but is it that much more?

Another price worth a second look is the 1913-D price in MS-65, which is currently \$4,650. For an MS-65 Barber half dollar, that price is actually on the low side, although the most common dates in MS-65 are presently \$2,800.

What has to be questioned in the case of the 1913-D is just how good supplies could be in any grade. The year was 1913 and there was a new Buffalo nickel that attracted much interest.

In Barber half dollars alone, all three had mintages of less than 1 million, and the Philadelphia 1913 had a mintage of 188,627, while the 1913-S was 604,000. To make matters more interesting, the 1913-S Barber quarter had the low non-gold mintage of the century at 40,000, while the Philadelphia Barber quarter was less than a half million. Even the 1913-S Barber dime was just 510,000 pieces, so virtually everywhere you looked in 1913, there were interesting and low mintage coins. On a limited budget, the 1913-D half dollar would not have been at the top of many lists.

Now, roughly 80 years later, the 1913-D takes on a different light. How many coins can you obtain for less than \$10 that have any scarcity whatsoever? But the value represented by a 1913-D does not stop there.

What about a \$72 VG-20 or \$160 F-40? They are nice Barber halves with a date giving little reason to suspect that many were saved - there were too many other interesting coins circulating. Find an XF-40 or even VF-20 1913-D and you have a coin that did not circulate extensively, so you can basically pick any grade and the 1913-D Barber half dollar looks like a very solid deal.



Special Offer for BCCS Members

3 of the 5 slightly used Eagle notebook-style certified coin storage albums donated to BCCS as a fund raiser by Glenn Church remain. PCGS, NGC, and PCI holders all fit in the album pockets. Each brown plastic, leatherette-like book has three sturdy hard plastic pages. Each page has 9 pockets and allows the coins to be viewed from both sides. These albums sell for \$24.95 new. They are available to members for **\$10 each plus postage**. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these albums, please phone or e-mail Eileen (contact info is on page 3).

BARBER BITS

Letters to the Editor

Dear Eileen:

I have some comments regarding Steve Hustad's recent article on quarter hub types:

I appreciated Steve Hustad's discussion of Barber quarter hub types in issue #4. For the reverse, I find that rather than relying upon the wing tip positions or the placement of the stars, the easiest diagnostic feature to distinguish Hub I from Hub II is the rotation of the stars. Notice that on Hub I, the stars above the eagle's head are upright (that is, they have points directed vertically toward the rim), whereas on Hubs II and III, the same stars look inverted (they are rotated so that points are directed down toward the eagle's head). His illustrations correctly show the orientations of these stars on both hubs (p. 17 and 18). It is interesting to speculate why some of the stars were rotated for the new hub. Hub I had most stars' upper points oriented vertically or toward the rim although points are different enough to give a randomized look; whereas on the later hubs, all stars seem to point toward the eagle and none point radially toward the rim. It appears that someone rotated 9 of the stars from their original orientations. Was this deliberate to form a more orderly arrangement? Was Barber involved in this alteration, or did somebody else think his stars were misaligned?

John Reynolds
BCCS #517



A while back you wanted some comment on who was right between your husband and yourself. The truth as I see it is you're both right (sounds like mediation, but NO). You see, I started by collecting in lower grades (G, VG, F). Then I got a little more appreciation for a full LIBERTY band, all letters visible in LIBERTY, full hairline, etc. so I moved up to VF/XF. Then on to AU and some Mint State coins because the rarity would move up in some cases such as an AU-3 would become an AU-5, as well as enjoying the overall beauty of the coin.

The point I want to make is - your husband is right for selecting the grade he has chosen (AU) due to upgrading to a nicer coin - especially high-end AU's (55-58). His problem in getting started at this time (unless he knows someone with a good starter set or complete set for sale) is in finding quality coins as the material that used [to] exist is not for sale at current *Coin World* prices.

Your plan (as I understand it) is to purchase any good, very good, fine, etc. coin that is good for the grade to fill the set. You are correct as all lower grade coins are being sought and prices are moving up, especially for those that are rare in higher grades which pushes the lower grade coins up in value as at times that is the only coin available.

Tom Flenniken



Here are several End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question "What are your three favorite Barbers?" More will be given in future issues as space allows.

Gerald Sobczynski:

1892-O Micro o 50c - One of the rarest listed in the Guide Book. The 1892-O "micro O" Half has a population of about 20-30 pieces. The engraver at the Mint apparently used the quarter mint mark punch instead of the half dollar, creating this popular rarity. The "micro O" is a cherrypicker's dream coin and it seems likely that there are still a few to be found.

1901-S Quarter - Key coin in the Barber Quarter set. It is almost impossible to find in EF-45 to MS-63. Less than 30 coins in all grades were certified by the major grading services. It is much tougher than the 72,664 mintage would indicate.

1894-S Dime - Rarest of all Barber coins and the most famous. Of the 24 pieces minted, just 9 are known today. Just like the 1804 silver dollar and 1913 Liberty Nickel, the 1894-S has an undeniable and mystical appeal which will excite collectors for years to come.

Paul Turner:

My three favorite Barber coins are:

1909-O Barber Quarter

1897-S Barber Quarter

1900-O Barber Dime

The '09-O is at the top of my list. I enjoy searching for this coin in Fine or better. I have been able to acquire several in Fine and one really nice EF-45. I have also put together a roll of G-VG.

Timothy Biga:

1905-O "micro" dime - this micro mint mark contrasts with the regular "O." Why is it on the dime, who made the mistake and why? Some information

is known as in Breen's book and in the dime book by Lawrence. We will probably never know but we can wonder.

1892-O "micro" half - I do not own this coin, but it is nice to dream about owning one in XF/AU condition.

1900-S quarter - A nice quarter with different mintmark positions; one has to wonder if my example came from the Phillipine Hoard.

C.J. Brown:

All quarters

1892 Type I Quarters for the striking quality, the look and the die chips in the S's of STATES.

1895-S Quarters...awesome RPM

1901-S Quarters because they're so rare and elusive. I like the challenge of the hunt for them and the fact that so few people can actually own them in a decent grade.

Robert Simpson:

1895-O, 1897-O, 1900-O dimes - hard to find in XF or better

Larry Cherny:

1901-S 25c

1897-S 25c

tie 1911-D and 1911-S 25c

Steve Butler:

My favorite Barber Half Dollar is the 1897-O Barber Half, simply because I found a nice 1897-O half at a local club meeting. 'The coin graded choice VF-35 and it was a nice original piece. The dealer who I bought it from did not push the grade to XF on the coin. It is now worth about 8 times what I paid for it. I bought the coin in 1986.

Henry Salvione:

1913, 1914, 1915-P Barber Halves - These are low mintage and, until recently, low-priced coins which, combined with their easy availability through VG, is interesting. As a relatively new Barber Half Dollar collector (3 years), it amazed me that they were so readily available. Even now that their prices have risen quite a bit, you still see them in many dealers' cases at most shows.

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